

# *Charleston Bands*

Charlesston  
Bangs



A group of young ladies from Charleston about 1897. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Phebe North Daybell and Alice Edwards Lindsay. Second row, Dacy Baker Miller, Mary Ritchie Wagstaff Stubbs, Agnes Webster Winterton. Third row, Mary Ann Daybell Moulton, Maggie Price Casper and Minna Murdoch Broadbent.

ley, Belva Wadley, Lucy A. Jensen, Thelma Ritchie, Inez Madsen, Lee Kay, Ruby Wright, Melinda Robinson, LaVon Pypcr, Sarah Robinson, Oleta Davis, LaPrcal Thacker, Gladys Barret, Virginia Ivie, Gladys B. Winterton, Arthur E. Bjorkman, Virginia Ivie, Catherine M. Williams, Dorothy Holmes, Reed K. Clegg, Leah Probst, Nina Edwards, J. W. Robertson, Alice Edwards, Eugene Peterson, Irma Poulson, Grace Jensen, Ross Kelly, Marvin Allen, Millie W. Henline, Clara Fortland, Wanda Green, Myrl Johnson, Raymond Wrightley, Beth Hintze, Leila Tippetts, Ruth Terry, Earl L. Nielson, LaMont Heslop, Edna Mae Christensen, Faye White, Merrill Reese, Amber Turner, Beth Workman, Faye White, Clarence Pace, Minnie Cummings, Susie Giles, Beth Crook, Tessie McGuire, Rachel Smith, Juventa Hamblin and Leo Ellertson.

Through the schools, as well as in community efforts, music has been important to Charleston residents. Two of the more prominent musical organizations were the Harmonica Band and the Charleston Brass Band. Members of the Harmonica Band, which was organized in 1896, were

William H. Winterton, Ern Webb, Dave Jones, John E. Webster, Frank North and John Hartle.

Mr. Winterton recalled some experiences of the band when he wrote:

"The 4th and 24th of July were the main days of the year for our band. We would get our horses ready on the day before. We would wet and braid their manes and leave them all night. The next morning we would undo the braids, brush them out and they would be nice and curly. Then we would hitch them to a wagon and start to serenade the town. When we would stop to play a tune or sing a song, the horses would stand very still and throw their ears ahead, as though they understood."

Charleston residents would always have cold drinks or treats on hand for members of the band as they traveled around the community.

Shortly before the turn of the century, the Charleston Brass Band was organized, and included as members Fred and Moroni Winterton, John and Steve Simmons, Eliza Wright, John Bates, Fred Daybell, Frank Webster, Claud Murdoch, and Clifford Madsen. For many years the band played for all the dances in town, and gave many concerts throughout the valley.

The community celebrations on special holidays made lasting impressions on those who participated, as is evidenced by the excerpt from a book. *An Introduction to the Theatre*, written by a native Charleston



Some of Charleston's young ladies pictured about 1897. Shown are, top row, left to right, Maud Simmons, Mary Murdoch, Emma Casper, Hilda Bagley, Sadie Brown, Matie North and Jessie B. Powers. Second row, Florie Hanks, Minna Wright, Sina Murdoch, Bottom row, Susan Webster, Belle Price, Josie Murdoch and Phebe Daybell.